

JOSEPH W. FISHER.

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FEBRUARY 20, 1895.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. MEIKLEJOHN, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 1957.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions have considered the bill (S. 1957) to increase the pension of Joseph W. Fisher and submit the following report:

The bill proposes to increase the pension in this case from \$30 to \$72 per month, and passed the Senate June 13, 1894. Joseph W. Fisher served as lieutenant-colonel, Fifth Pennsylvania Reserves, from June 21, 1861, to June 11, 1864, and, as colonel of the One hundred and ninety-fifth Pennsylvania Infantry from July 24, 1864, to November 4, 1864, and again from March 12, 1865, to January 31, 1866. He is pensioned at \$30 per month for chronic rheumatism. He was rated in 1891 by a medical board at one-half for rheumatism and one-half for heart disease, and "first grade" for aphasia—loss of mind—"probably occasioned by prolonged mental effort while his general system was in an enfeebled condition."

It does not appear that his mental condition is in any way traceable to his service; he is 80 years of age.

The report of the Senate committee contains the following statements:

He was engaged in all the battles in which his regiments participated, frequently received the compliments of his superior officers, was recommended for the position of brigadier-general, and was appointed brigadier-general by brevet in 1865. He performed conspicuous service at the famous Little Round Top at the battle of Gettysburg.

At the time General Fisher first enlisted he was past the military age, but he served during the entire war and came out of the war broken down in health, and has suffered from the exposures and hardships of the war ever since. He has had four different strokes of paralysis; he is 80 years old and is well-nigh helpless. He is by profession a lawyer. He held the office of associate justice and the office of chief justice of the supreme court of the Territory of Wyoming for a number of years. He has no means of support, and is totally disabled for mental and physical work.

A petition signed by several hundred representative citizens of his town gives a statement of his condition mentally and physically; while the affidavits of two representative physicians, who are members of the pension board of examiners, confirm the statements contained in the petition.

Your committee recommend that the bill be amended by striking out the words "seventy-two," in line 7, and inserting in lieu thereof the word "fifty," and that as so amended the bill do pass.